

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 15, 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL GOODPASTER

SUBJECT: Coordination of Satellite and Space Vehicle Operations

Because of the shortness of time available to me for these comments, they will be limited to some of the more technical aspects of the proposal re "Coordination of Satellite and Space Vehicle Operations."

Although presently the satellite and space vehicle RDTE programs are under an over-all management of ARPA, in detail it is the Services which manage the individual projects with funds allocated by ARPA. All three Services are thus presently "in space" with ill-defined lines of demarcation and much duplication. Presently the Services expect that various projects, when they are through the RDTE stages and have become operational, will be assigned to them for complete management. All of this leads to strong competition among the Services to stake out the largest possible claims "in space" which can be done on ARPA budget as things stand.

The proposal should improve the situation substantially because:

(a) Clear-cut assignments of authority to the three Services along reasonably functional lines will be made. (b) In view of the above, the duplication of projects should be greatly reduced. (c) Since the projects will be carried out on Service rather than ARPA budgets, a more effective restraint against indefinite multiplication and elaboration of projects will be established.

I am not touching in this memo on the basic problem referred to by the President as to whether the proposal tends toward separation rather than unification of the Services.

15 Sept.

G.M.K.

G. B. Kistiakowsky

This now  
looks O.K. to me  
after conversation with Mac Elroy.

DS

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